

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), recently completed a Transportation Study for the White River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The purpose of this Study was to identify the core transportation network and appropriate levels of maintenance for public roads within White River NWR. The primary objective of the Transportation Study was to develop reasonable alternatives for the core transportation network within the Refuge, develop a maintenance plan for the preferred alternative, and develop short- and long-range transportation plans for future programming.

The entrances and highways/roads providing access to the Refuge were evaluated as part of the Study. The Study evaluates the Refuge's existing internal transportation network and develops alternatives for the core transportation network within the Refuge while taking into account the mobility, operation, safety and other aspects considered essential by the FWS and consistent with its values and mission.

Within the Refuge, the Study identifies the roads which are necessary for public use (accessible by normal passenger vehicles) with appropriate levels of maintenance, roads which should be closed to public use, roads that are not categorized as public roads but are open to the public for recreational activities (i.e., hunting and fishing), roads that are open to ATV users, and roads which are to be used only for maintenance and management purposes. The Study also identifies transportation improvement projects for the five, ten, and twenty year plans within the Refuge with associated preliminary capital needs and operating costs. In developing short and long-range plans, the Study took into the consideration the following factors:

- FWS mission;
- Consistency with regional goals and policies;
- Affordability;
- Environmental sensitivity of the area; and
- Community or agency endorsement.

For more information regarding the Study, or to obtain an electronic copy of the document, please contact Larry Mallard, *White River NWR Refuge Manager*:

White River NWR
57 South CC Camp Road-P.O. Box 205
St. Charles, AR 72140
Telephone: 870-282-8200 /Fax: 870-282-8234
whiteriver@fws.gov